

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN HONOR OF DR. ANDREW
BROOKS

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 8, 2021

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I rise today, along with Congressman SOTO, to honor the life of Dr. Andrew Ira Brooks, a hero of the coronavirus pandemic. Dr. Brooks, a longtime Research Professor at Rutgers University in New Jersey, passed away on January 23, 2021 after a vibrant life filled with numerous professional and personal accomplishments.

Dr. Brooks led the effort to develop the Rutgers COVID-19 diagnostic assay in early 2020. This COVID-19 rapid test received FDA Emergency Use Authorization in March 2020 as the first approved saliva diagnostic and was the first test approved for home use. It is particularly important because this low-contact collection method helps protect our frontline medical workers. To date, there have been over four million clinical tests, undoubtedly saving the lives of many around our country and providing a practical tool for pandemic control.

Born and raised in New Jersey, Dr. Brooks went on to receive his Ph.D. degree in Neuroscience from the University of Rochester and became their Director of Medical Center Core Facilities. Four years later, he returned to his home state to direct the joint Rutgers/UMDNJ EOHSI Bionomics Research and Technology Center with an appointment as Research Professor in the Rutgers University Department of Genetics.

In 2009, Dr. Brooks became Chief Operating Officer and Director of Technology Development of RUCDR, Infinite Biologics, a Rutgers public/private partnership. He also served 17 years as an advisor to the Food and Drug Administration, as Director of the Harlan GeneScreen Laboratory and as Co-Founding Director of the BioProcessing Solutions Alliance. In June 2020, Dr. Brooks founded Infinity BiologiX and became its Chief Executive Officer and Chief Scientific Officer. Dr. Brooks also made significant academic contributions to the improvement of human health and the field of biomedicine which can be seen in the 70 publications he coauthored, several with over 1000 citations in the literature.

Dr. Brooks loved golf, playing the sport throughout his life. He was an extraordinarily accomplished amateur, winning international tournaments with his skill, concentration, and friendly competitive spirit. He is survived by his mother, Mrs. Phyllis Brooks, his sister, Janet Green, his children Lauren, Hannah and Danielle, and his loving wife, Jil Brooks, as well as many dear friends and colleagues.

Madam Speaker, I sincerely hope that my colleagues will join me in honoring Dr. Andrew Brooks for his dedication to the medical field and the countless lives he saved by leading the effort to develop the Rutgers COVID-19 saliva test.

IN MEMORY OF REVEREND
BRYANT WARDELL RAINES

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 8, 2021

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, it is with a heavy heart and solemn remembrance that I rise today to pay homage to an outstanding man of God, dedicated public servant, courageous soldier, and friend of longstanding, Reverend Bryant Wardell Raines. Reverend Raines transitioned from labor to reward on Wednesday, February 24, 2021. His homegoing service was held on Saturday, March 6, 2021, at 11 a.m. at the Macon City Auditorium in Macon, Georgia. He leaves behind a loving family, his dedicated church congregation at the New Pilgrim Missionary Baptist Church (NPMBC), and an appreciative community for his extraordinary life of service to God and humankind.

A native son of Macon, Reverend Bryant Wardell Raines was born on February 3, 1977, to the union of Mrs. Barbara Tharpe Raines and the late Reverend Curtis Raines, Sr. He thirsted for knowledge and self-improvement. He was a 1995 graduate of Central High School and a 1999 graduate of Clark Atlanta University, where he received B.A. Degrees in English, Philosophy, and Religion. In addition to attending Georgia Southern University (in pursuit of an M.A. Degree in Public Administration) and The Morehouse School of Religion at the Interdenominational Theological Center, he was also a 2001 graduate of the United States Army Chaplain Center and School. He was pursuing an M.A. Degree in Evangelism and Church Planting at Liberty University when the Lord called him home.

Reverend Raines served his country honorably in the United States Army as the Chaplain Assistant for the Installation Garrison Command, 3rd Infantry Division and the 4th Battalion 64th Armor Regiment of Fort Stewart, Georgia. He received awards for his valiant service including Army Service Ribbon (2001); Army Commendation Medal (2001, 2002, 2003, and 2004); National Defense Service Ribbon (2001); Primary Leadership Development Ribbon (2003); Presidential Unit Citation (2003); and Global War on Terrorism Service Medal (2003).

Reverend Raines was a man of God, truly devoted to his calling—a calling from God, passed to him through his father, Reverend Curtis Raines, Sr., who was his predecessor at NPMBC and the past president of the General Missionary Baptist Convention of Georgia. As the beloved Pastors of NPMBC, they utilized their roles as spiritual leaders to fully engage with their community by creating numerous outreach programs and opportunities to enrich the lives of those around them. Before his transition, Reverend Bryant Raines worked tirelessly with The Curtis Raines, Sr. Foundation on the development of The Curtis Raines, Sr. Health and Wellness Facility. This holistic

community center seeks to minister to the total person by providing programs and resources to promote both physical and spiritual wellness.

Reverend Raines believed strongly that involvement in his local and state-level sacerdotal communities was an integral part of his calling as a Minister of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Accordingly, he served in numerous roles that had as their purpose the uplift of humankind. In addition to being the beloved Pastor of NPMBC, he served the Deacon, the Audio and Video, and the Evangelism Ministries at NPMBC; President of the Sixth District of the General Missionary Baptist Convention of Georgia, Inc.; Vice President of the Sixth District of the General Missionary Baptist Convention of Georgia, Inc.; Member of the Board of Trustees at Wesley Glen Ministries; Member of the Rotary Club of Macon, Georgia; Member of the Baptist Minister's Union of Macon and Vicinity; and as Founder of the Heal the Hood Initiative, a community initiative to combat violence and address the needs of the total community.

Mother Teresa once said that “At the end of life we will not be judged by how many diplomas we have received, how much money we have made, how many great things we have done. We will be judged by “I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat, I was naked and you clothed me. I was homeless, and you took me in.” Reverend Bryant Wardell Raines, in his life, did just that, and the world is better because he passed this way. On a personal note, the advice, counsel, friendship, and support that I have received from Reverend Raines as Congressman for the Second Congressional District has been immeasurable. He never told me what I wanted to hear, but he always told me what he felt I needed to hear. And, for that, I will be forever grateful.

Reverend Raines accomplished much in his life, but none of it would have been possible without the Grace of God and the love and support of his family including his wife, Mrs. Ilashia Brezial Raines; and his siblings, Shun, Curtis, Jr., and Varina. He loved his family. His family loved him back. And they will miss him along with all of us whose lives he touched.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join my wife, Vivian, and me, along with countless others throughout Georgia and the nation in saluting Reverend Bryant Wardell Raines for his service in the ministry, to his country, and to humankind; and in extending our deepest condolences to Reverend Raines' family, friends, loved ones, and all those who mourn his loss. We pray that they will be consoled and comforted by an abiding faith and the Holy Spirit in the days, weeks, and months ahead.

• This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

HONORING ROSE CORDASCO'S
100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. ANDY KIM

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 8, 2021

Mr. KIM of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Rose Cordasco's 100th birthday. Rose is a loving, kind mother, sister, grandmother and great-grandmother. She is beloved by her family and from how her family has described her, it is clear that she has made the most of each of her one-hundred years.

I wish her the best on achieving this milestone.

HONORING JOSEPHINE MORSE

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 8, 2021

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the extraordinary service of Josephine Morse, who served in the House Office of General Counsel as a Deputy General Counsel. During her tenure, Ms. Morse, a District of Columbia resident, played an integral role in safeguarding the legal interests of the House and its Members, Officers, and employees in federal court litigation involving issues of the highest institutional importance.

Ms. Morse provided invaluable legal counsel and representation to numerous House committees, greatly assisting them both in fulfilling their constitutionally authorized oversight functions and defending those prerogatives in litigation. Ms. Morse provided vital legal counsel to the House in both impeachments of President Trump and in defense of longstanding institutional prerogatives. Those prerogatives included the House's constitutional authority under the Appropriations Clause and the power of House committees to issue subpoenas for both documents and testimony from the White House and Executive Branch agencies.

Of particular importance to the District of Columbia, Ms. Morse's legal work in litigation involving the District's quest to obtain the fundamental right of voting representation in Congress was exceptional, and her oral advocacy on behalf of the House's position in support of voting representation for the District before a three-judge district court was highly effective.

Ms. Morse's work on behalf of the House was of the highest caliber, and I have no doubt that the Office of Management and Budget, which she recently joined, will benefit from her outstanding legal counsel. On behalf of the entire House community, I thank Ms. Morse for her dedicated service to the House, and I wish her the very best in all of her future endeavors.

HONORING THE LIFE OF CHARLES
WALKER PREWITT SR.

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 8, 2021

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to observe and mourn the passing of a talented scientist, college professor, and most notably a "citizen of the world" who passionately advocated for world peace and justice, Mr. Charlie Prewitt, of Mansfield Hollow, Connecticut. My friend Charlie passed at the extraordinary age of 102 on January 7, 2021, sadly due to complications related to the coronavirus.

My statement today could not begin to encapsulate all that Charlie had accomplished during his industrious life. Born in Indiana in 1918, he showed such academic aptitude from an early age when he entered the second grade by age five. A prolific musician, playing both piano and violin, he received a scholarship to play in the Transylvania University orchestra where he would then go onto earn a bachelor's degree in chemistry. Charlie also met the love of his life, Virginia Stewart, at his alma mater—a love that would last 65 years.

Charlie went on to continue his education at Louisiana State University when his graduate work was interrupted by World War II. Due to his background in chemistry, he was conscripted to work at Dupont Chemical on extending the burn rate of gunpowder. That work led him to the Manhattan Project where he collected samples from reactors and ran titrations on plutonium. His involvement in the creation of nuclear weapons and intimate knowledge of their terrifying power was a driving motivation for his determined commitment to nuclear nonproliferation.

When the war ended, Charlie completed his graduate work, obtaining a Master's in Education at University of Kentucky, followed by a Doctorate in Science Education at Columbia University. In 1952, he and Virginia finally landed in Willimantic, Connecticut when he moved to take a professorship at the then named Willimantic State Teachers College, now Eastern Connecticut State University. His commitment to his students and his passion for educating educators was unmatched. His leadership led to the establishment of a minor degree in Peace and Human Rights at the University and the development of a scholarship program for students pursuing this degree.

While he remained in Connecticut for the rest of his life and career, Charlie never lost sight of foreign affairs. He accepted a Fulbright Scholarship to Myanmar, a U.S. AID position in Afghanistan and finally joined a Ford Foundation project in Pakistan. His commitment to war resistance, social justice, peace, and advancement of human rights never wavered.

Charlie and I crossed paths many times during my time in public service, and while we would engage in healthy debate, our conversations always left me with a deeper understanding of the issues and an even deeper respect for his commitment to them. Charlie's loss leaves a deep void in the activist community in Eastern Connecticut and around the world. He now goes on to join his loving wife Virginia, who regrettably predeceased him in

2007. Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues and this Chamber to join me in expressing our deepest respect for Charlie's work and life and send our deepest condolences to the Prewitt Family. Charlie is survived by his children Charles Walker Jr., (John) David Prewitt and Mary Stewart Prewitt and their families who carry the indelible memory of Charlie and Virginia in their hearts so that their example of compassion and kindness will carry on.

TRIBUTE TO GAYLE GRIFFIN,
AFGE'S DISTRICT 7 WOMAN OF
THE YEAR

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 8, 2021

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the career and ongoing legacy of Gayle Griffin, a retired nurse formerly employed at Milwaukee's Clement J. Zablocki VA Medical Center and President of the American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE) Local 3. She is an exemplary voice in our community and has consistently used her position to defend others. I want to congratulate her on her recent selection as AFGE's District 7 Woman of the Year.

Gayle is the first African American to ever be elected president of her Local AFGE branch. During her time in AFGE leadership, she has continually used her position to advocate for her members against anti-union executive orders, racism, and other inequities as a fierce champion for social justice.

Throughout her eleven-year career as a nurse serving our veterans at the Milwaukee VA, Gayle was one of many Black nurses who endured racism in her workplace. However, rather than backing down, she resolutely sought to protect and defend the rights of workers at the Local AFGE branch. She has spoken out about the tremendous struggles that VA nursing staff are facing amidst the COVID-19 pandemic and has repeatedly called for more honest communication from the Department of Veterans Affairs with its employees.

On February 21, 2021, Gayle was selected as AFGE's District 7 Woman of the Year. This important award is granted to those who exhibit selfless dedication to union solidarity, public service, and workplace health and safety. This is an honor that Gayle has truly earned. She has fought tirelessly to protect the health of veterans, for workers' rights, and for commonsense workplace safety and equity—especially during the devastation of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Her altruistic spirit and inspiring dedication to her colleagues and community are why Gayle is so deserving of the title of AFGE's District 7 Woman of the Year. Wisconsin's 4th Congressional District, and the veterans who depend on the VA for their health care, have been made better as a result of Gayle's phenomenal work. I sincerely respect her determination and applaud her accomplishments. Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor my constituent and her recent accomplishment and celebrate the great work that she and others in AFGE District 7 are doing in service to our veterans, our country and the state of Wisconsin.